

Certain activities in navigable waters are exempt from needing a permit under chapter 30, Wisconsin Statutes. Using this checklist, you can determine if your project qualifies for an exemption.

Your proposed **pier or wharf** is eligible for an exemption if your project will meet all the following conditions:

- ☐ The pier or wharf may be placed and maintained only by a riparian owner (an authorized agent or contractor may do the work on behalf of the riparian).
- ☐ The pier or wharf may extend into the water from the shoreline up to the line of navigation, which is the three-foot water depth, or the length of the boat using the pier unless a need can be demonstrated by the riparian that boats using the pier require a greater depth of water. A pier may also extend to the locally-authorized pierhead line. The depth of water necessary for nonfixed keel sailboats shall be measured with the centerboard or dagger boards raised.
- ☐ The pier or wharf may not exceed 6 feet in width. An "L" or "T" or catwalks are allowed as part of the pier, provided no parts of the pier exceed 6 feet in width.
- ☐ The pier or wharf may not have more than 2 boat slips for the first 50 feet of riparian owner's shoreline footage and no more than one additional boat slip for each additional full 50 feet of shoreline footage.
- ☐ The pier or wharf may not be a solid structure, or constructed on rock-filled cribs or similar size and type devices serving as a foundation.
- ☐ The pier or wharf may not totally enclose any portion of a navigable waterway.
- ☐ The pier or wharf may not interrupt the free movement of water nor cause the formation of land by deposition of littoral drift upon the bed of the waterway.
- ☐ The pier or wharf may not be constructed or maintained with a screen or similar structure underneath or in any other manner which would trap or accumulate aquatic plants or other debris.
- ☐ The pier or wharf and any boats, boat shelters, hoists or lifts associated with it shall be located entirely within the riparian's zone of interest.
- ☐ Subject to the boat slip limitations above, the pier or wharf may have an associated seasonal boat shelter, boat hoist or boat lift that meets the requirements of NR 326, Wis. Adm. Code (see Exemption Checklist for Boat Shelters, Hoists or Lifts).

If your project does not meet all of these conditions, submit a permit application to the Department. Note, the Department may require a permit for a pier or wharf if any of the following are true:

- The pier or wharf interferes with public rights in navigable waters
- The pier or wharf interferes with the rights of other riparians
- The pier or wharf does not allow free movement of water underneath or causes formation of land on the bed of the waterway.

If you have any questions about whether you meet these conditions, you may request an Exemption Determination from DNR. Obtain Form 3500-107, "Chapter 30 Exemption Determination Request" from a DNR service center, or download it from our website at [www.dnr.wi.gov](http://www.dnr.wi.gov) under the topic "Waterway and Wetland Permits." Complete the form and submit it to the DNR office identified on the form.

*Notes:*

- Many municipalities have local pier ordinances, containing various requirements including size limits, side setback requirements, and limits on number of boats. Check with your local municipality to ensure that your pier or wharf will meet their requirements.
- Removal of aquatic vegetation is limited to the amount necessary for the placement of a pier or wharf under ch. NR 109, Wis. Adm. Code. Contact your DNR Aquatic Plant Manager for more information.